

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2006-08

Emergency Room Access Task Force

WHEREAS, unprecedented population growth continues to strain Arizona's medical emergency system, despite significant hospital expansions; and

WHEREAS, Arizona has inadequate emergency room and inpatient capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Physician Workforce Study, published in 2005, reported that Arizona is facing a shortage of physicians, especially in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Arizona is the second fastest growing state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, as Arizona's population grows, the demand for access to quality emergency services will increase proportionally; and

WHEREAS, a plan needs to be developed to ensure Arizona residents and visitors have appropriate access to quality emergency care;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor by the Arizona Constitution and the laws of the State, hereby order and direct as follows:

1. There is hereby established an Emergency Room Access Task Force (the "Task Force"). The Task Force shall receive staff assistance from the Arizona Department of Health Services, which, among other things, shall assist the Task Force in drafting the Task Force's final report referenced in paragraph three (3) below.
2. Members of the Task Force shall be appointed by, and serve without compensation at the pleasure of, the Governor. The Governor shall appoint eleven (11) initial members of the Task Force. Such members shall include one representative from both the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association and the Arizona Medical Association. To the extent practicable, the remaining members shall reflect the geographic and cultural diversity of the State. Additional members may be added at the discretion of the Governor.
3. The Task Force shall assess the status of Arizona's Emergency Room Physician supply, identify factors that may have lead to the current shortage, and make recommendations for actions the State can take to address the situation. On or before December 1, 2006, the Task Force shall submit to the Governor a report that details recommended actions and timelines for implementation to improve emergency department care for Arizona residents and visitors.

4. Members of the Governor's Task Force may, with the Governor's permission, send designees to serve on the Task Force; provided, however, that such designees must be delegated by the member with full authority to vote and otherwise act on behalf of the member.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.


GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 26th day of April in the Year Two Thousand and Six and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirtieth.

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE